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PERISCOPE

Secret Contacts

A Nicaragua-Honduras connection

Why was the government of Honduras so untroubled by Nicaragua's recent raid on anti-Sandinista rebel camps inside Honduras? At the time, high-level military sources in Managua claimed they had



Protective gestures: Azcona

alerted Tegucigalpa about the attack in advance. Now, echoing that claim, diplomatic and military sources in Honduras say Nicaragua tipped Honduras through diplomatic channels two weeks before the attack. Indeed, although Honduran President José Azcona Hoyo publicly denies it, the warning was only the latest in a series of behind-the-scenes communications between the two countries, according to these sources. Since 1984, they say, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega twice has sent a personal envoy to meet influential Honduran politicians. These overtures were rebuffed and the secret talks did not begin in earnest until last January, when Azcona took office. Honduran and Nicaraguan border commanders have met several times at the frontier and military officials of the two countries have talked by phone and by radio. There are even reports that Tegucigalpa may have shared intelligence on rebel positions with the Sandinistas as a good-will gesture.

Reagan's Summit Reading

He may not have time for "fiction" by David Stockman, but President Reagan has found a book to plow through during his Asian summit trip—"The Intuitive Manager"—highlighting the importance of instinct in business and praising Reagan as "a master of political timing." After Washington lobbyist and longtime Reagan friend Nancy Reynolds dropped off a copy at the White House, with the references to Reagan marked, the president phoned author Roy Rowan (a writer at Fortune magazine). "With all that long trip ahead of me, your book is going to be in my bag," Reagan promised.

Australian journalists traveling with Reagan to the sum-

mit may need a good book to pass the time during his stay in Indonesia. They've been barred from covering the ASEAN meeting—and refused visas—by the Jakarta government, furious over an Australian newspaper story comparing President Suharto's regime to that of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. U.S. officials interceded successfully on behalf of Australians working for American news organizations, but unless Jakarta backs down, two Australian Broadcasting Corp. journalists aboard the Reagan press plane may be held at the Bali airport or deported—"sending up a red flag that says there's a hell of a story here," said a Reagan aide.



ROB NELSON—PICTURE GROUP

Candidate: King

MLK III

The scion of another famous American family will soon be on the hustings: Martin Luther King III, 28, son of the slain civil-rights leader, will announce this month for the Georgia state Senate seat that Julian Bond is vacating after a decade to run for Congress. A political novice, King has enlisted the support of Stoney Cooks, a top campaign organizer and adviser to Atlanta Mayor Andy Young. MLK III, known in Atlanta as Marty, works in youth programs and lectures at colleges, churches and civic groups. A famous name can have "a positive and negative effect" in politics, King says, hoping his will bring an early advantage against at least three other candidates in the Democratic primary.

Portraits of a Lady

The official poster Statue of Liberty birthday party will be Peter Max, painter la the psychedelic '60s. T isn't as odd as it see turned out annual po Miss Liberty since 197 a 1981 White House I ence Day bash. This Ju take it to the max: a the ceremonies, ever Reagan's speech, he a 10-foot-high stage hattan's Battery Par ing away with six-i brushes at 10 giant "pressionist" versi ty's head. Some will g to Mexico, Canada, Fr president—and fund i traordinaire Lee Iacocca



To the Max: Liberty post-

A Message for Mexico

Officially, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City announced that it was closing its busy visa office as a security precaution following the disclosure of a Libyan plot to attack a visa line at the U.S. Consulate in Paris. Privately, U.S. officials in Washington say the move is part of a Reagan administration effort to pressure Mexican authorities into providing better security generally in the

face of local terrorist drug-related violence and crimes against Americans. The embassy receives bomb daily. And U.S. officials outraged when the Mexican police recently allowed a crowd of anti-American demonstrators close to paint anti-gringo slogan on the building's fences.

LUCY HOWARD with bureaus